National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Aerospace Engineer

John Preston
Aerospace Engineer

US Army
Aeroflightdynamics Directorate
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I work with the prediction, design and analysis of advanced concepts for future aircraft.

How I first became interested in this profession:

I was interested in aircraft and space from a young age.

What helped prepare me for this job:

I worked on related projects in school, and took math and science classes.

My education and training:

- BS, Aerospace Engineering, Georgia Tech
- MS, Aerospace Engineering, Georgia Tech

My career path:

Graduate research assistant at Georgia Tech - 1 1/2 years
Rotorcraft design with Army Advanced Design Team, Aviation and Missile Command - 12 years

What I like about my job:

I get to see what future aircraft might be, and why they will or won't work.

What I don't like about my job:

I dislike the long hours in front of the computer.

Areas of expertise:

- Rotorcraft design

My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

You should start early on developing precision and accuracy in your work. A physics-based understanding of how aircraft operate, knowing computer programming, and the ability to present results in understandable format will also help.

Additional Resources:

- American Institute of Biological Sciences
  http://www.aibs.org
- American Physiological Society
  http://www.faseb.org/aps
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
  http://www.biophysics.org/biophys/society/biohome.htm
- American Society for Microbiology
  http://www.asmusa.org
- Astrobiology Summer Academy
  http://academy.arc.nasa.gov/
- Biotechnology Industry Organization
  http://www.bio.org/welcome.html
- Graduate Student Researchers Program
  http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/NASA.Educational.Products/Graduate.Student.Researchers.Program.Brochure/.index.html
- MATHCOUNTS Competition
  http://mathcounts.org/
- Minority University Research and Education Programs
  http://mured.nasaprs.com/
- NASA Cooperative Education Program for college students
  http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Educational.Services/NASA.Education.Programs/Student.Support/NASA.Cooperative.Education.Program/.index.html
- NASA Jobs
  http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/
- NASA Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications
  http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/olmsa/
- NASA SHARP Internship Program for high-schoolers
  http://www.mtsibase.com/sharp/
- NASA Student Employment
  http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud_opps/employment/index.htm
- NASA Student Involvement Program student contests
  http://www.nsip.net/index.cfm
- Order NASA career videos such as "Engineers: Turning Ideas into Reality," "Careers: Aerospace Engineer" or "Reaching for the Stars" from NASA CORE.
  http://core.nasa.gov
- Student's Guide to Astrobiology
  http://www.astrobiology.com/student.html
- Tech-Interns.com
  http://www.tech-interns.com/

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Thank you.